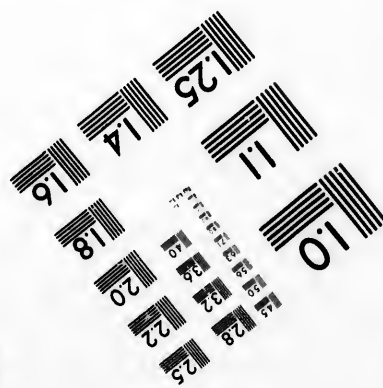
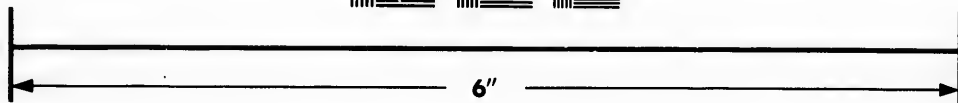
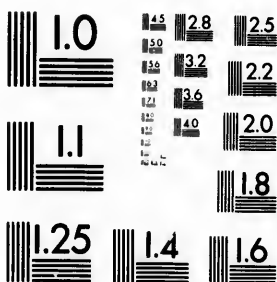


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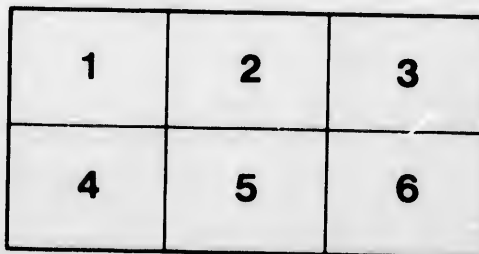
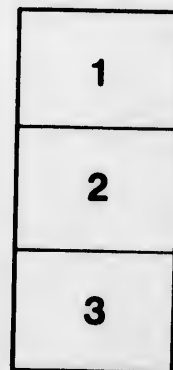
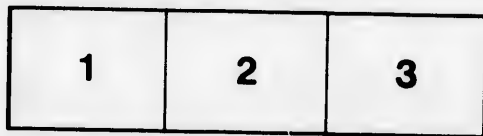
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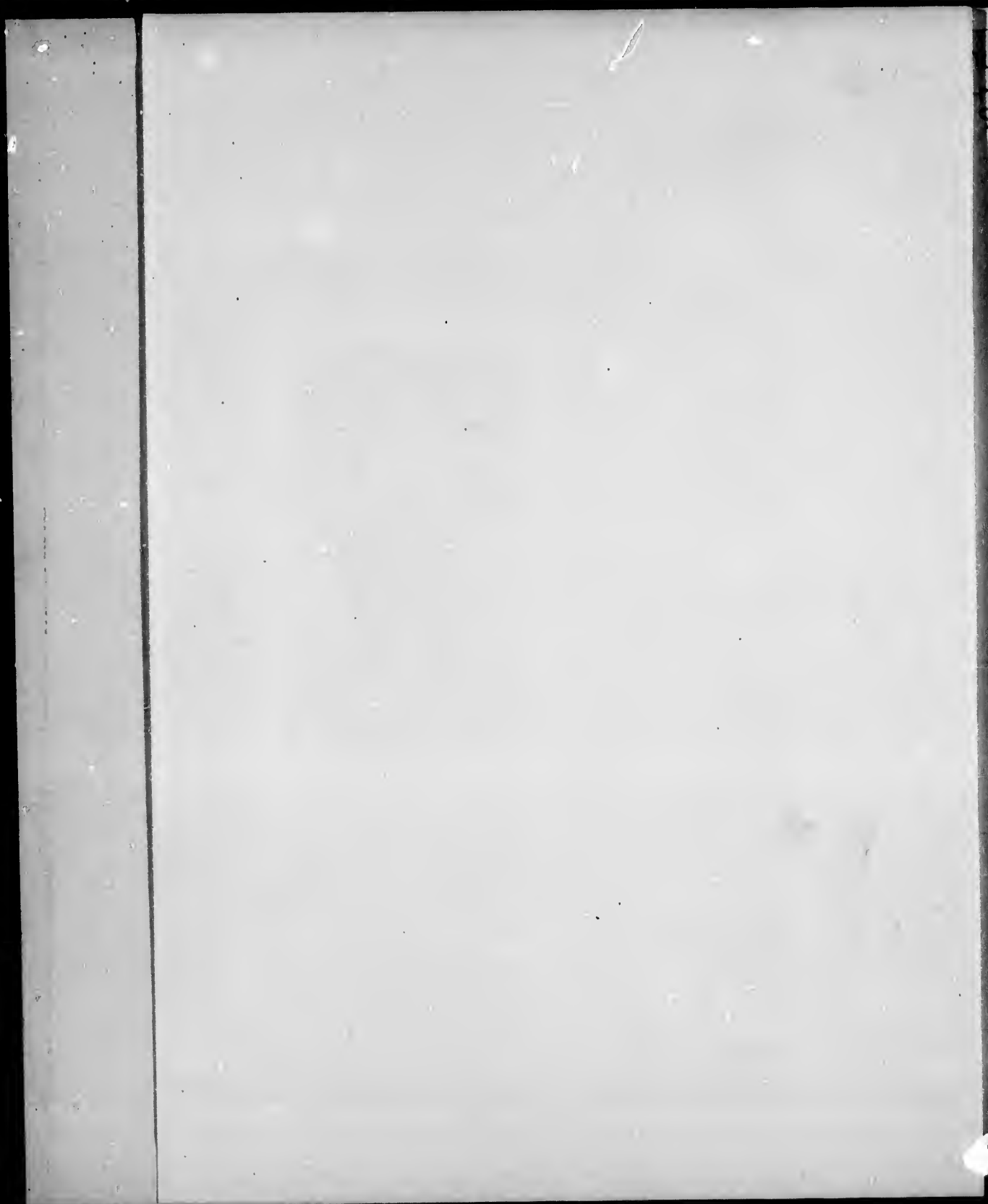
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CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

AND

THE TREASURER OF VANCOUVER ISLAND

*ON THE SUBJECT OF THE ABOLITION OF THE
OFFICE OF TREASURER.*

1866-1867.

GOVERNOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA to the TREASURER of VANCOUVER ISLAND.

*Government House, New Westminster,
13th November 1866.*

DEAR SIR,—You are aware that the office you now hold will be abolished by Act of Parliament as soon as the proclamation uniting the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia shall have issued.

Circumstances and financial difficulties will, I deeply regret to say, compel me to effect considerable reduction in the public expenditure, and consequently in the double staff of Government Officers now existing in the two Colonies; but I have the permission of the Secretary of State to assure you that the reduction will not fall exclusively on the public servants of Vancouver Island. The Queen's prerogative of appointment to office is unfettered by the Act to which Her Majesty has assented.

It will be my duty to submit to Her Majesty's Secretary of State the names of the gentlemen whom I may consider best fitted to fill the several public offices which the service of the united Colony may require.

I am not as yet prepared, within a few days of my arrival, to perform the extremely important and painful duty which has devolved upon me. I shall, therefore, feel much obliged if you will continue to fulfil the duties of your office, and the employment of your subordinates, until the 31st December 1866.

A bill of indemnity will be laid before the Legislative Council, to protect me from the consequences of the unauthorised expense I am now undertaking.—I am, dear Sir,
your obedient Servant,

FREDERICK SEYMOUR.

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The COLONIAL SECRETARY of BRITISH COLUMBIA to the TREASURER of
VANCOUVER ISLAND.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, New Westminster,
17th January 1867.*

SIR,—I am directed by the Governor to inform you, that he is anxious to retain your services under this Government, until the work of the approaching session is completed, and the Laws of the United Colonies amalgamated. His Excellency desires me to offer you the appointment of Sub-Treasurer of British Columbia, resident in Victoria, to carry out until repealed the Revenue Laws of Vancouver Island, with a salary at the rate of £400 per annum. I am, at the same time, to express a hope, on the part of the Governor, that he will ere long be in a position to offer you a permanent and more satisfactory appointment.

The Governor is anxious to secure the services of Mr. W. A. G. Young, late Colonial Secretary of Vancouver Island, in the position of Treasurer during the approaching session of the Legislature of the Colony.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY of BRITISH COLUMBIA to the TREASURER of
VANCOUVER ISLAND.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, New Westminster,
6th March 1867.*

SIR,—I have received and laid before the Governor your several letters referring to your official position since the Union.

You are so fully aware of the position of affairs that it is unnecessary for me to enter upon the subject, beyond the statement that it has become necessary to reduce the Civil establishment to a considerable extent, and in the proposed amalgamation of offices to abolish for a time the distinct office of Treasurer.

Under the local laws of Vancouver Island the necessity existed for the continuance of the appointment of Treasurer. Under the "Officers' Enabling Ordinance" the necessity for the continuance of the office no longer exists, and the Legislature has expressed a desire that the appointment be abolished.

The Auditor-General has reported that, in consequence of the arrears of audit work, your books, as Treasurer of Vancouver Island, cannot be balanced under at least three months.

Under these circumstances, the Governor considers it the most advisable course to refer the question of the abolition of the Treasurership to the Secretary of State, together

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The COLONIAL SECRETARY of BRITISH COLUMBIA to the TREASURER of
VANCOUVER ISLAND.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, New Westminster,
22d March 1867.*

SIR,—I have duly received and laid before the Governor your letter of 13th instant, and I am directed by His Excellency to acquaint you that he is about to forward the same for the consideration of the Secretary of State.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

TREASURER of VANCOUVER ISLAND to COLONIAL SECRETARY of BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Treasury, Victoria, 26th March 1867.

SIR,—Referring to my letter of the 13th inst., and to your reply thereto, dated the 22d inst., I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that as the "Officers' Enabling Ordinance" does not appear to enable officers of Vancouver Island to perform duties appertaining to British Columbia, and that, as you are aware, I do not hold any appointment under the Government of British Columbia, I have some hesitation in continuing to receive and disburse public monies in the capacity of ex-Treasurer of Vancouver Island.

I have, accordingly, to request that you will move His Excellency to make such arrangements as will relieve me from this anomalous position in which, solely for the convenience of the public service, I have placed myself.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

ALEXANDER WATSON.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY of BRITISH COLUMBIA to the TREASURER of
VANCOUVER ISLAND.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, New Westminster,
30th March 1867.*

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 26th instant, I am directed by the Governor to offer you six months' leave of absence on full pay, with a free passage for yourself and family to England.

The Governor will likewise, should you accept this offer, bring to the notice of the Secretary of State your claims to other employment. He greatly regrets that the financial condition of the Colony leaves him but little hope of being able to offer you suitable employment within it.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

MEMORANDUM of

Westminster,

of 13th instant,
to forward the
to be, Sir, your
BIRCH.

of COLUMBIA.

March 1867.

memo, dated the
Excellency the
honorable officers
, and that, as
agent of British
public monies in

to make such
solely for the
your to be, Sir,
WATSON.

MEMORANDUM of

Westminster,

directed by the
the passage for

notice of the
the financial
you suitable
servant,
BIRCH.

